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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/833,013	04/10/2001	Trent J. Brundage	P0337	8369

23735 7590 11/25/2005

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EXAMINER

PARTHASARATHY, PRAMILA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2136

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/833,013

Applicant(s)

BRUNDAGE ET AL.

Examiner

Pramila Parthasarathy

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 September 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 7-29, 31 and 32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 31 and 32 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) 7-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>03/31/05</u> | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is in response to request for consideration filed on September 08, 2005. Original application contained Claims 1 – 32. Claims 1 – 6 and 30 were cancelled. No new claims were added. Therefore, presently pending claims are 7 – 29, 31 and 32.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. An initialed copy of the information disclosure statement, dated 03/31/2005 is attached to this office action by the examiner.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments regarding Claims 7 – 29 filed on September 08, 2005, have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reasons:

Applicant argued that the cited prior arts (CPA) [DeLorme et al. U.S. Patent number 5,848,373, hereinafter "DeLorme" and Meyer et al. U.S. Patent number 6,748,362, hereinafter "Meyer"] do not teach, suggest or disclose, "capture image data of a map", "machine-reading steganographic indicia from optical scan data representing a map", "capturing an image of a sign", "steganographically embedded location

information in a map, and using this steganographically embedded map to help identify a location”.

4. DeLorme teaches and describes an apparatus to read a map, the map being divided into a plurality of areas, with each area comprising location information for the respective map area (DeLorme Fig. 1 – 6; Column 4 lines 1 – 38; Column 6 lines 21 – 42; Column 11 lines 6 – 19 and Column 60 line 61 – Column 61 line 38), an input device to capture an image of at least a portion of the respective map area; memory including executable software instructions stored therein, the instructions to extract the location information from the captured image and the location information is compared to the GPS data to indicate the correlation of the apparatus location and the captured location information (DeLorme Fig.3 – 7; Column 19 line 41 – Column 20 line 7 and Column 25 line 51 – Column 26 line 43). DeLorme further discloses comparing the location information to a physical location and providing feedback to correlate the location information (DeLorme Column 4 lines 1 – 64). DeLorme further teaches and describes capturing an image of a sign (DeLorme Column 34 lines 30 – 58, Column 42 lines 52 – 58 and Column 44 lines 3 – 9). DeLorme further teaches that the images (symbols, name or sign) are processed and are displayed at specific location (DeLorme Column 37 lines 17 – 31). Meyer discloses a system for embedding digital data for enabling user decoding of information (Meyer Fig. 4; Column 4 lines 31 – 65 and Column 7 lines 19 – 61), the encoding process is done by using digital watermarking followed by embedding the digitally watermarked data. Meyer also teaches extracting the digitally watermarked

data (Meyer Column 10 lines 33 – 41). DeLorme further discloses comparing the location information to a physical location and providing feedback to correlate the location information (DeLorme Column 4 lines 1 – 64).

5. In response to applicant's argument that there is no suggestion to combine the references, the examiner recognizes that obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Furthermore, DeLorme discloses a hand held personal GPS navigation tool (prior art, Background Art) and discloses a multimedia system for correlation and coordination of spatially related information between diverse media and graphics or text. DeLorme provides a computer aided map location system (CAMLs) based on coordination between a PDA (hand held device) and GPS system for displaying user location, see DeLorme Column 3 line 56 – Column 5 line 27.

Applicant clearly has failed to explicitly identify specific claim limitations, which would define a patentable distinction over prior arts. Therefore, the examiner respectfully asserts that CPA does teach or suggest the subject matter broadly recited in independent claims 7, 10, 11, 12, 14, 20, 24, 25 and 26. Dependent claims 8, 9, 13,

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15 – 19, 21 – 23 and 27 – 29 are also rejected at least by virtue of their dependency on independent claims and by other reason set forth in this office action.

Accordingly, the rejection for the pending Claims 7 – 29 is respectfully maintained.

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 31 and 32 are allowed as evident by applicant's arguments.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest that a method comprising inputting a map location to a computing device, wherein the map includes location; determining a current location; in the computing device, determining a relationship between the input map location and the current location; and providing directions from the current location to the map location; and wherein said determining a current location comprises receiving GPS signals to determine the current location.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 7 – 29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over DeLorme et al. (U.S. Patent Number 5,848,373 hereinafter "DeLorme") in view of Meyer et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,748,362 hereinafter "Meyer").

Regarding Claim 7, DeLorme teaches and describes a global positioning system receiver to determine a location of said apparatus; an input device to capture an image of at least a portion of the respective map area; memory including executable software instructions stored therein, the instructions to extract the location information from the captured image of at least a portion of the respective map area, and to correlate the location of the apparatus with the extracted location information; electronic processing circuitry to execute the software instructions; and an output device to indicate the correlation of the apparatus location and the captured location information (DeLorme Fig.3 – 7; Column 19 line 41 – Column 20 line 7 and Column 25 line 51 – Column 26 line 43). DeLorme does not explicitly teach that at least one embedded digital watermark from the captured image and to correlate the location of the apparatus with the extracted location information. However, Meyer

discloses a system for embedding digital data for enabling user decoding of information (Meyer Fig. 4; Column 4 lines 31 – 65 and Column 7 lines 46 – 61), the encoding process is done by using digital watermarking followed by embedding the digitally watermarked data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teachings of DeLorme in conjunction with Meyer for embedded digital watermarking to provide efficient representation of digital data and pre-paid media data as suggested by DeLorme.

Regarding Claim 10, DeLorme teaches and describes dividing a representation of a geographical area into a plurality of areas (DeLorme Column 1 line 9 – Column 2 line 15). DeLorme does not explicitly teach that the location data is steganographically encoding location data. However, Meyer discloses a system for steganographically encoding for enabling user decoding of information (Meyer Fig. 3, 4; Column 4 lines 31 – 65 and Column 7 lines 19 – 61), the encoding process is done by using steganographic techniques encoding plural bit (image) data wherein the location data is unique (“The selection of the appropriate locations ...in the media file”). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teachings of DeLorme in conjunction with Meyer to provide efficient representation of digital data and to enable additional benefits of fast encoding/decoding DeLorme.

Regarding Claim 11, DeLorme teaches and describes

reading from the map, including location information which uniquely identifies the map; comparing the location information to a physical location; and providing feedback to correlate the location information and the physical location (DeLorme Fig. 1 – 6; Column 4 lines 1 – 38; Column 6 lines 21 – 42; Column 11 lines 6 – 19; Column 14 line 26 – Column 15 line 23; Column 23 lines 1 - 16 and Column 60 line 61 – Column 61 line 38). DeLorme does not explicitly teach that the area comprises at least one embedded digital watermark to extract the digital watermark from the map. However, Meyer discloses a system for embedding digital data for enabling user decoding of information (Meyer Fig. 4; Column 4 lines 31 – 65 and Column 7 lines 46 – 61), the encoding process is done by using digital watermarking followed by embedding the digitally watermarked data. Meyer also teaches extracting the digitally watermarked data (Meyer Column 10 lines 33 – 41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teachings of DeLorme in conjunction with Meyer for embedded digital watermarking to provide efficient representation of digital data and pre-paid media data as suggested by DeLorme and then extracting digitally watermarked data as taught by Meyer for processing of location information.

Regarding Claim 12, DeLorme teaches and describes

extracting the location information from the map location; comparing the location information to global positioning system (GPS) received coordinates of the physical

location; and providing feedback based on the comparison of the physical location and the map location (DeLorme Fig. 1 – 6; Column 4 lines 1 – 38; Column 6 lines 21 – 42; Column 11 lines 6 – 19; Column 14 line 26 – Column 15 line 23; Column 23 lines 1 - 16 and Column 60 line 61 – Column 61 line 38). DeLorme does not explicitly teach that the area comprises at least one embedded digital watermark to extract the digital watermark from the map. However, Meyer discloses a system for embedding digital data for enabling user decoding of information (Meyer Fig. 4; Column 4 lines 31 – 65 and Column 7 lines 46 – 61), the encoding process is done by using digital watermarking followed by embedding the digitally watermarked data. Meyer also teaches extracting the digitally watermarked data (Meyer Column 10 lines 33 – 41). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teachings of DeLorme in conjunction with Meyer for embedded digital watermarking to provide efficient representation of digital data and pre-paid media data as suggested by DeLorme and then extracting digitally watermarked data as taught by Meyer for processing of location information.

Regarding Claim 14, DeLorme teaches and describes a sign having plural bit data, the data comprising a unique identifier (DeLorme Fig. 1 – 6; Column 4 lines 1 – 38; Column 6 lines 21 – 42; Column 10 lines 4 – 59 and Column 11 lines 6 – 19). DeLorme does not explicitly teach that the area comprises at least one embedded digital watermark. However, Meyer discloses a system for embedding digital data for enabling user decoding of information (Meyer Fig. 4; Column 4 lines 31 – 65 and

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Column 7 lines 46 – 61), the encoding process is done by using digital watermarking followed by embedding the digitally watermarked data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teachings of DeLorme in conjunction with Meyer for embedded digital watermarking to provide efficient representation of digital data and pre-paid media data as suggested by DeLorme.

Regarding Claim 20, DeLorme teaches and describes capturing an image of a sign; extracting from the captured image, including plural-bit data; and outputting a response in accordance with the plural-bit data (DeLorme Fig. 1 – 6; Column 4 lines 1 – 38; Column 6 lines 21 – 42; Column 11 lines 6 – 19; Column 14 line 26 – Column 15 line 23; Column 23 lines 1 - 16 and Column 60 line 61 – Column 61 line 38). DeLorme does not explicitly teach to extracting a digital watermark from the captured image and outputting a response in accordance with the plural-bit data. However, Meyer discloses a system for extracting a digital watermark from the image (media file) and outputting a response in accordance with the plural-bit data (Meyer Fig. 4; Column 7 lines 46 – 61 and Column 10 lines 33 – 43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teachings of DeLorme in conjunction with Meyer for extracting digital watermarking to provide efficient representation of digital data and pre-paid media data as suggested by DeLorme and then extracting digitally watermarked data as taught by Meyer for processing of location information.

Regarding Claim 24, DeLorme teaches and describes
a global positioning system that determines location of said apparatus (DeLorme Fig.1, 2 and Column 21 lines 19 – 59);

an input to receive optical scan data corresponding to at least a portion of the respective map area; memory including executable software instructions stored therein, the instructions to extract the location information from the optical scan data of at least a portion of the respective map area, and to correlate the location of the apparatus with the extracted location information; electronic processing circuitry to process the software instructions; and an output to indicate a correlation of the apparatus location and the location information (DeLorme Fig.3 – 7; Column 19 line 41 – Column 20 line 7 and Column 25 line 51 – Column 26 line 43). DeLorme does not explicitly teach that the area comprises at least one embedded digital watermark. However, Meyer discloses a system for embedding digital data for enabling user decoding of information (Meyer Fig. 4; Column 4 lines 31 – 65 and Column 7 lines 46 – 61), the encoding process is done by using digital watermarking followed by embedding the digitally watermarked data. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teachings of DeLorme in conjunction with Meyer for embedded digital watermarking to provide efficient representation of digital data and pre-paid media data as suggested by DeLorme.

Regarding Claim 25, DeLorme teaches and describes

a global positioning system receiving means for determining a physical location of said apparatus; input means for inputting data corresponding to at least a portion of the respective map area; processing means for extracting the location information from the input data and for correlating the physical location with the extracted location information; and output means for outputting an indication of the relative correlation between the apparatus location and the watermark location information (DeLorme Fig. 3 – 7; Column 19 line 41 – Column 20 line 7 and Column 25 line 51 – Column 26 line 43). DeLorme does not explicitly teach that at least one embedded digital watermark from the captured image and to correlate the location of the apparatus with the extracted location information. However, Meyer discloses a system for extracting location information from the image data (Meyer Fig. 4; Column 4 lines 31 – 65, Column 7 lines 46 – 61 and Column 10 lines 33 – 43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teachings of DeLorme in conjunction with Meyer for embedded digital watermarking to provide efficient representation of digital data and pre-paid media data as suggested by DeLorme.

Regarding Claim 26, DeLorme teaches and describes a method comprising:

accessing a database comprising information; retrieving a subset of the database information; storing the retrieved subset of database information in a handheld

computing device, the handheld device including an input device (DeLorme Column 7 line 53 – Column 11 line 32) ;

capturing a portion of a digitally watermarked map by the input device, the portion including at least one watermark comprising map location information; in the handheld computing device, determining which of the retrieved subset database information corresponds to the map location information; and providing the corresponding retrieved subset database information as feedback (DeLorme Fig.3 – 7; Column 19 line 41 – Column 20 line 7 and Column 25 line 51 – Column 26 line 43). DeLorme does not explicitly teach that capturing a portion of digitally watermarked map, the portion including at least one watermark comprising map location information. However, Meyer discloses a system for capturing a portion of digitally watermarked image by the input device, the portion including at least one watermark comprising location information (Meyer Fig. 4; Column 4 lines 31 – 65 and Column 7 lines 46 – 61). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of the ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to use the teachings of DeLorme in conjunction with Meyer for embedded digital watermarking to provide efficient representation of digital data and pre-paid media data as suggested by DeLorme.

Claim 8 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 7. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein said apparatus is a handheld apparatus (DeLorme Column 2 lines 43 – 58; Column 19 lines 1 – 55; Column 49 lines 6 – 22 and Column 56 lines 16 – 25).

Claim 9 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 7. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein the output device provides one of an LED indication, arrow indication, audio indication, grid indication, and visual display (DeLorme Column 5 lines 50 – 54; Column 12 lines 40 – 60 and Column 15 lines 5 – 31).

Claim 15 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 14. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein the unique identifier identifies the location of the sign (DeLorme Column 36 lines 36 – 54).

Claim 16 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 14. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein the unique identifier conveys a message (DeLorme Column 16 lines 46 – 62).

Claim 18 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 14. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein the unique identifier comprises an index for a database, the database comprising data records (DeLorme Column 11 line 6 – Column 12 line 11).

Claim 21 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 20. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches further comprising interrogating a database with the plural-bit data to locate a corresponding web page address (DeLorme Column 6 lines 43 – 61 and Column 24 lines 11 – 56).

Claim 23 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 20. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches further comprising accessing a file associated with the plural-bit data, the file including one of audio, video, and text data (DeLorme Column 4 lines 1 – 6 and Column 5 lines 50 – 55).

Claim 27 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 26. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches further comprising wirelessly accessing the database (DeLorme Column 24 lines 1 – 47).

Claim 28 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 26. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein the database information includes at least one of road directions, restaurant information, store or restaurant promotions, coupons, tourist information, historical information, zoo information, amusement park information, rest-stop information, road conditions, road work information, and detour information (DeLorme Column 51 line 26 – Column 52 line 43 and Column 54 lines 22 – 33).

Claim 29 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 26. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein the feedback comprises at least one of usual feedback, audible feedback, text feedback, graphical user interface feedback, laser pointer illumination and a printed document . (DeLorme Column 4 lines 1 – 6; Column 5 lines 50 – 55; Column 12 lines 40 – 60 and Column 15 lines 5 – 31).

Claim 6 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 5. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein at least one embedded digital watermark includes an orientation signal (DeLorme Column 12 lines 40 – 60 and Column 13 lines 14 – 30).

Claim 13 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 12. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein the location information comprises an index, and said method further comprises indexing a database with the index to identify location information (DeLorme Column 11 line 6 – Column 12 line 11 and Column 43 lines 12 – 25).

Claim 17 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 16. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein the message comprises a speed limit, directions, location of an establishment, and seating information (DeLorme Column 12 line 40 – Column 13 line 30).

Claim 19 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 18. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein a data record comprises at least one of a speed limit, directions, location of an establishment, Java applets, lodging vacancy, menu, hours of operation, tourist information, HTML code, URL page, IP address, and seating information (DeLorme Column 12 lines 40 – 60).

Claim 22 is rejected as applied above in rejecting claim 21. Furthermore, DeLorme teaches wherein the response comprises displaying the web page associated with title web page address (DeLorme Column 6 lines 43 – 61 and Column 24 lines 11 – 56).

Conclusion

8. Examiner's Note: Examiner has cited particular columns and line numbers in the references as applied to the claims above for the convenience of the applicant.

Although the specified citations are representative of the teachings in the art and are applied to the specific limitations within the individual claim, other passages and figures may apply as well. It is respectfully requested from the applicant, in preparing the responses, to fully consider the references in entirety as potentially teaching all or part of the claimed invention, as well as the context of the passage as taught by the prior art or disclosed by the examiner.

THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the

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shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Pramila Parthasarathy whose telephone number is 571-272-3866. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00a.m. To 5:00p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 571-232-3795.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Pramila Parthasarathy
November 17, 2005.


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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